portion of at least one of the displayed entries of
the selected directory;

comparing the search key to <u>at least one data element</u>
[the data elements in the files] <u>corresponding to at
least one of the displayed entries</u> and <u>further</u>
displaying [in said directory one or more records in
which the datum element matches] <u>those ones of the
entries which correspond to data elements
corresponding to</u> the search key; <u>and</u>

<u>in response to another input by the user, selecting
one of the further displayed entries for initiating a
communication to a party, the party being identified
by the identifier defined by data elements
corresponding to the selected entry.</u>

[selecting a record from said directory in accordance
with the location of an indicator on a display,
denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing device
or a contact and a selection frame in the display;

utilizing information in the selected record to
initiate one of a plurality of forms of electronic
communication to a selected recipient.]

2.   (Amended) The method as described in claim 1,
wherein <u>the step of</u> comparing the search key comprises the
steps of:

[inputting a search key representing the alphanumeric
string to be searched;]

setting a <u>value of a</u> first variable <u>equal</u> to [the] <u>a</u>
number <u>representing a total number of the records to
be searched;</u> [of records to be checked;]

setting <u>a value of a second,</u> [a first] index <u>variable equal</u> to one<u>;</u> [to keep account of the records checked;]

[setting a second variable to the alphanumeric string to be searched;

setting a third variable to TRUE if the record has been checked otherwise setting the third variable to FALSE, and if the third variable is FALSE then reading the second variable from the record;]

<u>reading at least one of the data elements of a record corresponding to the value of the second, index variable;</u>

[comparing the condition] <u>determining</u> whether the search key matches [the second variable stored in the record,] <u>at least one of the data elements of the record corresponding to the value of the second, index variable</u>[and if it is determined that the search key matches the second variable, then, the record is displayed]; and

incrementing the [first] <u>value of the second, index variable by one</u> and <u>subsequently</u> determining whether the <u>value of the second, index variable</u> [first index] equals the <u>value of the</u> first variable<u>,</u> [number of records to be checked] and if the <u>value of the second, index variable</u> [first index] does not equal the <u>value of the</u> first variable, then the <u>steps of reading, determining, incrementing, and subsequently determining are again performed until it is determined that the value of the second, index variable equals the value of the first variable.</u> [search process repeats until all records matching the search key are displayed.]

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3.   (Amended) A method for operating a personal digital assistant having an input means, a file storage means, a data base, a search engine means‚ [;] a display means, and an electronic communications means‚ comprising the steps of:

storing in the data base one or more records, each of the records comprising identification information identifying a party and communication information required for communicating with the party through a communication link; [of names and relatable calling numbers comprising a directory;

choosing an application to input a message content;]

in response to an input from a user, selecting one of a plurality of directories, each of said directories comprising one or more entries and being related to a respective type of communication, each of said one or more entries corresponding to a respective one of said records;

inputting a message into the personal digital assistant through the input means; and

selecting one of the entries of the selected directory for assigning the communication information of the record corresponding to the selected entry to the inputted message, for subsequently communicating to a party the inputted message using the type of communication corresponding to the selected directory, said party being identified by the identification information of the record corresponding to the selected entry. [a record from said directory in accordance with the location of an indicator on a display, denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing device or a contact and a selection frame in

the display;

utilizing information in the selected record to address the message content.]

4. (Amended) The method as described in claim 3, wherein <u>a further step is performed of communicating the inputted message to said party identified by the identification information of the record corresponding to the selected entry, said communicating step being performed using the type of communication related to the selected directory.</u> [the data base is also used to route an electronic communication for the message content.]

5. (Amended) The method as described in claim [3,] 4 <u>wherein prior to the step of communicating, a step is performed of storing at least the inputted message, and wherein the step of communicating is performed in response to a user inputting information into the personal digital assistant specifying that the inputted message be communicated.</u> [wherein the further steps of selecting a message content directory and sending the message content immediately or sending at a later time.]

6. (Amended) A personal digital assistant device comprising:

a storage means having a data base [with] <u>for storing</u> one or more records<u>, each of the records comprising data elements defining an identifier of a party and communication information required for communicating with the party through an electronic communication link;</u> [of names and relatable recipient electronic communications descriptors;]

[a directory relatable to said records;]

[an] <u>a first user</u> input means<u>, said first user input
means being operable by a user</u> for inputting a search
key [relatable] <u>corresponding</u> to [a datum element in
one or more] <u>at least one of the data elements of at
least one of</u> said records;

a search engine [to search the data base and compare]
<u>for comparing at least one of the data elements of at
least one of</u> the records to the search key;

a display for <u>displaying at least a portion of those
ones</u> [showing the directory] of said records <u>having at
least one data element</u> [that compare] <u>corresponding</u> to
the search key;

[an] <u>a second user</u> input means<u>, said second user input
means being operable by the user for selecting one of
the records having at least one data element
corresponding to the search key;</u> [to select a calling
record in the directory;] and

[an] electronic communication means <u>for initiating an
electronic communication to the party identified by
the identifier defined by data elements of the
selected record, using one of a plurality of types of
electronic communication.</u> [connected to the personal
digital assistant to initiate one or more applications
relatable to an electronic communication of a message
content based on a description of the record
selected.]

7. (Amended) The personal digital assistant device as
in Claim 6, wherein <u>at least one of the first and second
user input means</u> [the input means to select a calling
record in the directory] is comprised of a QWERTY keyboard.

8. (Amended) The personal digital assistant device as

in Claim 8, wherein <u>at least one of the first and second user</u> [the] input means is comprised of a telephone keypad.

9. (Amended) The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 8, wherein <u>at least one of the first and second user</u> [the] input means is comprised of a <u>user touch-sensitive</u> [touch] screen.

10. (Amended) The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 8, wherein <u>at least one of the first and second user</u> [the] input means is comprised of a voice recognition means.

11. (Amended) The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 8, wherein the [recipient electronic communications descriptors include] <u>communication information includes</u> at least one of a telephone number, a facsimile number, an E-mail address, a paging address, and an Internet [IP] address.

[Please add the following new claims.]

--12. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting one of the further displayed entries is performed in accordance with the location of an indicator on the display means, denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing device or a contact and a selection frame in the display means.

13. A method as described in claim 1, wherein prior to the step of inputting the search key, a step is performed of inputting a message into the personal digital assistant through the input means, and wherein the communication initiated in the step of selecting one of the further displayed entries communicates the inputted message to the party identified by the identifier defined by data elements corresponding to the selected entry.

14. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the communication initiated in the step of selecting one of the further displayed entries is of the type of communication related to the selected directory.

15. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the communication information includes at least one of a telephone number, facsimile number, E-mail address, paging address, and an Internet address.

16. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the respective type of communication includes at least one of a telephony communication, a facsimile communication, an E-mail communication, a paging communication, and an Internet communication.

17. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the plurality of directories include at least two of a telephone number directory, a facsimile number directory, an E-mail address directory, a paging number directory, and an Internet address directory.

18. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of further displaying is performed in such a manner that those ones of the entries which correspond to data elements defining communication information that corresponds to the type of communication related to the selected directory are visually distinguished from those ones of the entries which correspond to data elements defining communication information that is not related to the type of communication related to the selected directory.

19. A method as described in claim 3, wherein the step of selecting one of the entries is performed in accordance with the location of an indicator on the display means, denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing

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device or a contact and a selection frame in the display means.

20. A method as described in claim 3, wherein the communication information includes at least one of a telephone number, facsimile number, E-mail address, paging address, and an Internet address.

21. A method as described in claim 3, wherein the plurality of directories include at least two of a telephone number directory, a facsimile number directory, an E-mail address directory, a paging number directory, and an Internet address directory.

22. A method as described in claim 3, wherein the respective type of communication includes at least one of a telephony communication, a facsimile communication, an E-mail communication, a paging communication, and an Internet communication.

23. A personal digital assistant device as set forth in claim 6, wherein the plurality of types of electronic communication include at least two of a telephony communication, a facsimile communication, an E-mail communication, a paging communication, and an Internet communication.

24. A personal digital assistant as set forth in claim 6, wherein the communication information includes at least one of a telephone number, facsimile number, E-mail address, paging address, and an Internet address.

25. A personal digital assistant, comprising:

    means for storing one or more records, each of the records comprising data elements defining an identifier of a party and communication information

required for communicating with the party through a communication link;

communication means;

input means;

a display;

control means coupled to said input means, said display, said communication means, and to said storage means, said control means being responsive to receiving from said input means user-input information specifying that a first one of a plurality of directories be selected for retrieving from said storage means at least a portion of those ones of said records corresponding to said first directory and for controlling the display so as to present the retrieved portions of these records to the user as corresponding directory entries, said control means also being responsive to receiving from said input means a user-input search key for comparing the user-input search key to at least one of the data elements of at least one of said records from said storage means, for retrieving from said storage means at least a portion of those ones of said records having data elements corresponding to the user-input search key, and for controlling the display so as to display as further directory entries the retrieved portions of said records having data elements corresponding to the user-input search key, said control means also being responsive to receiving from said input means user-input information specifying that one of the further displayed directory entries be selected for controlling said communication means so as to initiate a communication to the party identified by the identifier defined by data elements corresponding to

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the user-selected directory entry.

26.   A personal digital assistant as set forth in claim 25, wherein the communication information includes at least one of a telephone number, facsimile number, E-mail address, paging address, and an Internet address.

27.   A method as described in claim 25, wherein the plurality of directories include at least two of a telephone number directory, a facsimile number directory, an E-mail address directory, a paging number directory, and an Internet address directory.

28.   A method as described in claim 25, wherein the communications means includes a telephone unit.-- `

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were rejected. Claims 1-11 have been amended. New claims 12-28 have been added. Claims 1-28 are now pending in this application.

Formal drawings will be filed after the receipt of a Notice of Allowance for this patent application.

The specification has been amended above to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over a combination of Abdul-Halim (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,492) and Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,675,324), hereinafter referred to as Hashimoto.

It is respectfully submitted that some of the Examiner's arguments relating to this rejection are not clearly understood, such as, for example, those arguments set forth in the paragraph beginning on page 3 and ending on page 4 of the office action. Nonetheless, the arguments presented